

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /103 W
-----050190 210548Z /14

R 190524Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8451
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2265

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CG, US, OAU
SUBJ: OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL REQUESTS US HELP FOR
ZAIRE
REF: 77 ADDIS ABABA 2067

1. OAU ASST SEC GEN KAMANDA WA KAMANDA CALLED ON CHARGE MAY 17 AT HIS REQUEST TO MAKE PERSONAL DEMARCHE IN FAVOR OF SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE. ALMOST IDENTICAL PITCH (REFTEL) WAS MADE TO PREVIOUS CHARGE A YEAR AGO APRIL AT TIME OF LAST INVASION OF SHABA PROVINCE BY EX-KATANGESE GENDARMES. KAMANDA AGAIN MADE PLEA FOR US MILITARY SUPPORT OF MOBUTU AGAINST FOREIGN AGGRESSION, ALTHOUGH NATURE OF HELP WAS NOT SPECIFIED, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE DOES NOT HAVE CLEAR IDEA, HIMSELF, OF WHAT IS NEEDED.

2. WHILE KAMANDA STARTED OUT BY EMPHASIZING NEED TO MAINTAIN LEGALITY OF REGIME, HE SPENT MORE TIME ON PLEA THAT US AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES SUPPORTING ECONOMIC LIBERALISM PERSUADE MOBUTU TO ORGANIZE ECONOMY FOR GROWTH, TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION, TO RESTRUCTURE GOVERNMENT, ETC. CHARGE WONDERED, BASED ON HIS OWN EXPERIENCE WITH MOBUTU GOVT IN LATE 1960'S, HOW KAMANDA THOUGHT MOBUTU'S AND ZAIRE'S FRIENDS COULD BRING HIM AROUND TO DOING THE RIGHT THING WHEN HE HAD DISAPPOINTED
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US SO FREQUENTLY IN PAST -- TO WHICH KAMANDA HAD NO REAL
REPLY EXCEPT TO KEEP TRYING.

3. KAMANDA LEFT CHARGE, ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, COPY OF TELEGRAM HE CLAIMS TO HAVE SENT MOBUTU PLEDGING SYMPATHY FOR HIS EFFORTS AND CALLING UPON HIM TO ORGANIZE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO DEPRIVE FOREIGN ADVERSARIES

OF PRETEXT FOR AGGRESSION.

4. REMAINDER OF MEETING WAS, AT CHARGE'S INSTIGATION, DEVOTED TO FUTURE OF OAU. IN SHORT, KAMANDA SEES NO FUTURE WITHOUT CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP, PRESUMABLY REPLACEMENT OF SECGEN ETEKI BY HIMSELF. ALWAYS PERSONABLE AND FRIENDLY TOWARDS THIS EMBASSY, KAMANDA NEVERTHELESS LEAVES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING NO MORE EFFECTUAL THAN HIS PRINCIPAL COMPETITOR FOR THE TOP POSITION IN THE OAU BUREAUCRACY.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KINSHASA'S COMMENTS ON CURRENT ROLE OF KAMANDA IN ZAIRE EQUATION, IF ANY.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: DEMARCHE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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